

Student-Led Conferences



Edison Intermediate Center is Making it Happen!



WE ARE Edison Intermediate Center, a 5-8 middle school serves 430 students. We are a part of the South Bend Community School Corporation.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES Edison's students are 42% African-American, 32% Caucasian, 13% Latino, 1% Asian, 1% American Indian and 11% mixed race.

OUR TEACHERS Edison's academic faculty consists of 43 grade-level and related arts teacher. Our professional staff has received training in Kagan practices, reading apprenticeship, and STEM teaching.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

When students are well prepared for a student-led conference over an extended period of time to tell the story of their own success (or lack thereof), they seem to experience a fundamental shift in their internal sense of responsibility for that success.

Student-led conferences open up the communication between school and home. They allow for the student to practice real life skills of communication, organization, leadership, etc.

The conferences place the focus on learning, self-evaluation, self-reflection, goal setting processes and most importantly accountability.

The conferences create ample time for all parents to attend and accommodate parents who do not have English as their primary language.

OUR STEPS

- All student work is collected throughout the grading period preceding the Student-led conference.
- Work is organized by subject and arranged neatly in a binder.
- The students identify various work samples that address areas of success and areas of improvement. These samples are placed at the front of the binder.
- Students create an outline of their presentation to their parent/guardian. It is important for the students to take ownership of their academic successes and struggles so as to create an action plan for maintaining strong academic areas and how to improve areas of academic weakness.
- Parents are contacted to remind them of the conferences.
- The classroom is set up to optimize conversation between student and parent.
- When the family arrives the student gathers their binder and shares their academic information with their parent/guardian.
- Teachers remain in the classroom to speak with parents if they have any questions or if they would like to schedule a meeting.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

"Arena style conferences didn't provide privacy, didn't meet the needs, and there was no student buy-in. Student-led conferences require the student to validate their progress and allows for conversation between student, school, and home to help improve academic focus."

-Mrs. Peters, middle school teacher

For more information about our school or corporation, email: Marlena Derrickson
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https://www.edline.net/pages/edison_intermediate_center